

**Introduced by Senator Gaines  
(Coauthor: Senator Vidak)**

June 1, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to Fireworks Safety Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 71, as introduced, Gaines. Fireworks Safety Month.

This measure would designate June 21, 2015, through July 21, 2015, as Fireworks Safety Month and would encourage the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies to educate members of the public about the risks of improperly using fireworks, including fireworks that have been approved as safe and sane.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1     WHEREAS, Many Californians and visitors to the state will be  
2     celebrating our nation's independence on July 4th with fireworks;  
3     and  
4     WHEREAS, Fireworks were involved in an estimated 11,400  
5     injuries treated in hospital emergency departments throughout the  
6     United States during 2013, with roughly 65 percent of those injuries  
7     being treated during the period between June 21 and July 21,  
8     inclusive; and  
9     WHEREAS, Serious misuse of fireworks devices, as well as  
10    the use of illegal explosives, account for a large proportion of these  
11    injuries; and  
12    WHEREAS, Children younger than 15 years of age accounted  
13    for approximately 40 percent of the injuries, with roughly 2,300

1 of those injuries being caused by sparklers, 300 by bottle rockets,  
2 and 500 by firecrackers; and

3 WHEREAS, The parts of the body most often injured were  
4 hands, fingers, head, face, eyes, and legs, with burns representing  
5 the most common injury to all parts of the body, except that  
6 lacerations and foreign bodies occurred more frequently in the  
7 eyes; and

8 WHEREAS, Bodily injury is not the only damage that can occur  
9 from improper use of fireworks and the Department of Forestry,  
10 and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has stated that improper use of  
11 fireworks during California's severe drought has caused wildfires;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has already responded to 1,122 wildfires  
14 between January 2015 and May 2015, inclusive, that have burned  
15 4,206 acres, nearly double the number of fires and acreage  
16 destroyed by this time in 2013, and therefore CAL FIRE is urging  
17 the public to enjoy only professional fireworks displays; and

18 WHEREAS, Since it can take hundreds of thousands of gallons  
19 of water to control a large wildfire, avoiding home use of fireworks  
20 is important not only for safety and wildfire prevention, but also  
21 to save precious water resources during this critical period of  
22 drought; and

23 WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has reminded those who choose to use  
24 fireworks to celebrate to make sure fireworks are allowed in the  
25 area of use and that they follow all safety precautions, because  
26 individuals not following these requirements can be held financially  
27 responsible for any fire caused by improper fireworks activities;  
28 now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designate, June 21, 2015,  
31 to July 21, 2015, inclusive, as Fireworks Safety Month; and, be it  
32 further

33 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages the Department of  
34 Forestry and Fire Protection and local fire protection agencies to  
35 educate members of the public about the risks of improperly using  
36 fireworks, including fireworks that have been approved as safe  
37 and sane; and, be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages these agencies to  
39 advise members of the public about the high fines for use or sale  
40 of illegal fireworks in addition to the risk of paying for wildfire

- 1 damage caused by improper or illegal use of fireworks; and, be it
- 2 further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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